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Message Text

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63
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 /087 W
---------- 033998
R 131750Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1960
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09091

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH
SUBJECT: MINISTER ENNALS'VISIT TO RHODESIA

REF: LONDON 9011

1. ON JUNE 13 AN EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED ENNALS' VISIT WITH FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, NORMAN ASPIN. HE SAID THAT TIME OF THE VISIT WAS NOT YET FIRM, AS SMITH HAD INDICATED THE DAYS PRECEDING ENNALS' VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE WERE NOT POSSIBLE. IT SEEMS NOW THAT ENNALS WILL MEET SMITH THE LAST FEW DAYS OF JUNE. ASPIN COMMENTED ON THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES RELATING TO THE VISIT, SAYING THAT SMITH'S TONE WAS THE MOST POLITE HE HAD USED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR YEARS. HE WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE TALKS, BELIEVING THAT "LEOPARDS DO NOT CHANGE THEIR SPOTS EASILY." HE INDICATED THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO SMITH'S ADVANTAGE TO STALL WHILE SEEMING TO
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SHOW SOME SIGN OF PROGRESS. ASPIN WASN'T SURE WHETHER

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SMITH HAD AGREED TO TALK TO THE BRITISH AT THIS POINT BECAUSE THEY HAD OFFERED HIM A MINISTER OR WHETHER PRESSURE FROM VORSTER HAD CONVINCED HIM IT WAS TIME TO SHOW SOME SIGN OF GOING TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN IN CONTINUING CONTACT WITH VORSTER TO GET SMITH TO ACT.

2. ENNALS EXPECTS TO MEET ALSO WITH THE ANC LEADERS, SOME OF WHOM ARE GETTING RATHER IMPATIENT WITH SMITH. THE BRITISH WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN THE REGION, BUT ARE NOT ENCOURAGED BY THE CONTINUING RATHER RADICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOW THE BLACKS AND WHITES SEE POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE AS THE RESULT OF A "SUCCESSFUL" CONFERENCE. THEY ARE ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN HOW THE WHITE, PARTICULARLY THE MORE RADICAL, RHODESIANS SEE THE FUTURE. HE SAID IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GET MUCH OF A FEELING FOR THEIR ATTITUDE AS SMITH HAS ALWAYS ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING THEM AND HAS NOT GIVEN THE BRITISH OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY DIRECT CONTACT.

3. ASPIN THINKS THAT MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE WILL PUT CONSIDERABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL IF NOT REAL PRESSURE ON THE SMITH REGIME. HE MENTIONED THE ADDITION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES OF POTENTIALLY HOSTILE BORDER TO DEFEND AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SANCTIONS WILL GO INTO EFFECT SOON AFTER MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS.

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